



The Washington Connection

Congresswoman **Candice Miller**

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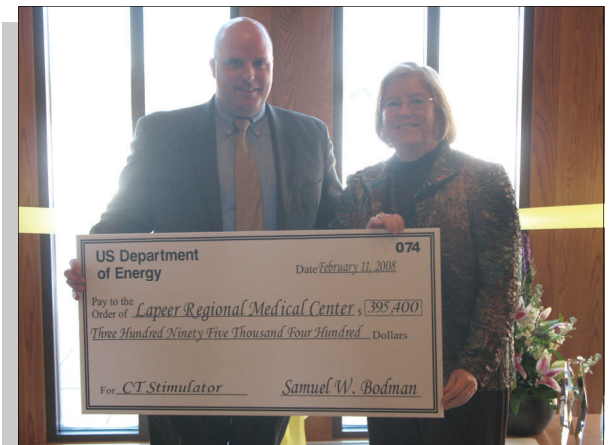
Rep. Miller secures funding for Great Lakes Cancer Institute

Rep. Miller presented Lapeer Regional Medical Center with more than \$395,000 at Institute's grand opening

LAPEER COUNTY, MI — Congresswoman Candice Miller (MI-10) visited Lapeer County on Feb. 11 to participate in the Lapeer Cancer Center's grand opening ceremonies. Miller secured \$395,400 for a CT Simulator for the new cancer center in the federal Omnibus legislation passed in December. She will delivered the keynote address for the opening and received a tour of the new facility. The Great Lakes Cancer Institute is the only cancer treatment center in Lapeer County.

"The Lapeer Cancer Center will provide more than quality care to the people of Lapeer County," Miller said. "It will provide hope. This facility is now the first and only cancer center in the county."

This is the third time Rep. Miller has secured federal funds for Lapeer Regional Medical Center. In 2005, Miller secured \$100,000 for facilities construction, and in 2006, she secured \$300,000 for a linear accelerator.



Rep. Miller presents the Lapeer Regional Medical Center with federal grant money to fund the Great Lakes Cancer Institute.

Article: LRCM's new cancer center nearly ready

By Jeff Hoard — The County Press

LAPEER — When guests first step into Lapeer Medical Center's new Cancer Center during grand opening ceremonies Feb. 11, they'll likely see colorful salt water fish swimming in a large aquarium in the center of main room.

Behind that, comfortable chairs and a stone fireplace reaching toward the ceiling. Behind that, a nature area with a healing garden and fountain.

"It's like walking into a lodge," he said, stressing it's not like walking into an institution. "We got world class cancer care inside this building."

Effectively beating cancer while comfortably doing so is the goal here.

“One of the best parts of being a member of Congress is to have the opportunity to work with people like all of you at the Lapeer Medical Center and secure federal support for projects that improve lives.”
Congresswoman Candice Miller

A resource library on one side of the building will house comfortable chairs and many books on cancer care and treatment. Computer stations will be available and

members of the American Cancer Society will help aid cancer patients.

Although it looks gray and gloomy now due to winter weather, the nature area behind the center will be much brighter in the spring and summer times to help cheer up and relax patients. A healing garden and fountain will be available, and a walking area has been created so patients can walk with their loved ones and rest on benches along the path.

Infusion bays are set up with outside views to provide patients going through chemotherapy with

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Article: Otter Lake to purchase new fire truck with \$163,000 federal grant

By Jeff Hoard — The County Press

The Otter Lake Fire Department is no stranger to federal grants.

It was awarded \$160,583 for a firefighting vehicle on Aug. 15, 2003; and \$38,773 on June 11, 2004 and \$32,186 on Aug. 3, 2007 for fire operations and fire safety from the Department of Homeland Security under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Now it can add a \$164,350 grant to that list, which will be used to purchase a new tanker truck.

"It's been a blessing," said Deputy Fire Chief and Village President David Dorr. "It's been great. It's a competitive grant that definitely has a need."

The new 2,500-gallon tanker will replace a much older model, a 1982 tanker that holds 2,100 gallons of water. The truck will allow the department to transport larger quantities of water to fire scenes, an important asset to a rural community.



"This grant will help continue the great work the Otter

Lake Fire Department has been doing," said U.S. Representative Candice Miller in a press release. "The funding provided will supply the means for more efficient and effective emergency preparedness. And it is necessary for our first responders to be properly equipped so they can perform their life-saving work. Updated response equipment must be available for them to protect residents."

The need for a bigger tank for water will help the department greatly, Dorr said. Not

only will the new vehicle comply with updated standards and rules, there are no fire hydrants in the area. Therefore, all the water is needed to make sure firefighters stay safe when fighting the blazes.

"All the water is used," he said. "This will benefit the community greatly, and the surrounding community. If we have a mutual aid call requiring more water, we'll have it for everybody to use."

The tankers are custom built for the community and will likely take between six to seven months to construct, Dorr added. The bidding process to find a company to build the tanker has begun.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides grants to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment and vehicles, and provide scholarships for firefighters' training school.

Rep. Miller awards federal grant money to Memphis Police Department

ST. CLAIR, MI — Congresswoman Candice Miller (MI-10) was in Memphis, MI on Feb. 11 to present the Memphis Police Department with a federal grant totaling \$11,500.

The Memphis Police Department received the Department of Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) grant. CEDAP provides specialized commercial equipment and related training directly to smaller jurisdictions and eligible metropolitan areas.

The program is used to enhance regional response capabilities, mutual aid and interoperable communications by providing technology and equipment, along with the training required to operate that equipment, to law enforcement and emergency responder agencies in smaller jurisdictions and certain metropolitan areas.

The grant will be used to purchase a XOA Series Portable Video Surveillance System.



Rep. Miller secured federal grant money for the Memphis Police Department.

Rep. Miller to present Port Huron Fire Department with \$109,260 grant

WASHINGTON — U.S. Representative Candice Miller (MI-10) announced this month that the Port Huron Fire Department was selected by the Department of Homeland Security to receive more than \$109,000 under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

The grant will be used to purchase equipment for the Port Huron Fire Department, including a chlorine kit, radiation detection monitors, chemical detection chips and tubes, a new vehicle exhaust extraction system and new turnout gear. These grants are provided to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, and vehicles and provide scholarships for firefighters' training school.

"This grant will help the Port Huron Fire Department continue doing the great work it's been doing," Miller said. "The funding will enhance the department's ability to respond and provide assistance to those affected by fires. It will also keep the firefighters protected from the harmful chemicals they encounter on a daily basis. It is critical that our first responders have the tools necessary to perform their life-saving work."

The vehicle exhaust extraction system will replace an outdated version. It attaches to the tailpipe of fire trucks to remove carcinogens and various other dangerous chemicals from the air that are released by diesel exhaust. The new turnout gear consists of coats and pants worn by firefighters on duty.

Port Huron Fire Chief Robert Eick said, "This grant will help provide a safer working environment by preventing pollution and contamination from vehicles. The grant will allow us to replace our old turnout gear, and because of budget challenges, it's a great way to save local dollars."

The Port Huron Fire Department has received several grants in preceding years. Among them was one for \$216,700.00, which was to purchase updated breathing apparatus, chemical suit protection and haz-mat training, and another for \$173,880 to purchase 14 mobile and 30 handheld 800 mg interoperability radios.

(Continued) Article: LRCM's new cancer center nearly ready

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their own personal space where they may read, look outside or watch television. Each have their personable light settings. Private treatment rooms are also available.

"We want to bring nature into the building," Buxton said, adding the entire building is "very environmental friendly" as it was built under Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards.

Physicians are currently being sought to lease out the different suites available for them inside the 21,000 square-foot facility. Inside the center's community room will be cancer screenings and educational programs available to the patients. More plans are in the works for it.

"We would like to bring in yoga and massage therapy," said Clarence Sevillian, vice-president of operations for LRCM.

But the prized possession of the cancer center lies behind eight-foot concrete walls and a 10,000-pound lead door: the linear accelerator, or what Buxton calls it, "The Cancer Killer." This \$1.5 to 2 million piece of equipment will be used to provide radiation services for cancer patients, which typically lasts between 10 to 30 minutes per session.

"It gives a radiation dose to the patient," Sevillian said. "A beam of radiation goes right to the tumor to kill it."

In January of 2006, LRCM received a \$300,000 grant delivered by Congresswoman Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, to be applied for the linear accelerator. Miller secured the money in the 2006 Energy and Water Appropriations Act.

Employees have also stepped up to the plate, Buxton said, and have raised more than \$50,000 over the past two years.

The LRCM Auxiliary also presented a \$300,000 donation during their annual meeting April 12, 2006. It was used to establish an endowment fund to benefit the cancer center.

Buxton said cancer service care is a top priority in Lapeer County. Not only will residents not have to travel farther away to seek treatment, he hopes this will cut down the number of deaths associated with cancer. According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, 377 Lapeer County residents died from some form of cancer between the years of 1998-2002; this is an increase from 330 deaths be-



Rep. Miller received a tour of the Great Lakes Cancer Institute during her visit to commemorate its grand opening.

tween the time period of 1993-1997.

"Cancer is the second highest cause of death in Lapeer County," Buxton said. "We're incredibly excited to bring (the Cancer Center) to the community. This is really a pinnacle piece for us."

Out of all deaths in 2003, cancer was the second highest cause of death in the county at 21.7%; the highest was heart disease at 33.2%.



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Washington Connection Weekly

Tune in to Congresswoman Miller's weekly radio addresses every Thursday on WPHM 1380 AM.



Listen to Congresswoman Miller's latest Podcast welcoming Great Lakes advocates to Washington, D.C. for Great Lakes Day on her Web site.



Visit our Web site at <http://candicemiller.house.gov>

Rep. Miller releases statement on White House's cut in Great Lakes funding

"Being from Michigan, one of my biggest priorities is to ensure that the Great Lakes receive the proper funding that they need. We are dealing with some very important issues in this region, and for a variety of reasons I believe that the federal government has an important role to play in addressing those problems. As a result, we should be seeing increased investments in Great Lakes.

In fact, just last week this subcommittee held a hearing on Great Lakes water quality. I think the consensus was that we are at something of a crossroads. We have made a lot of progress towards improving the Great Lakes. But if we fail to make the proper investments, we risk falling backwards in our efforts. This budget proposal would likely move us in that direction.

I am aware of a few bright spots in the budget. \$6.5 million is set aside for the Asian Carp barrier in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal. There were very slight increases for the Great Lakes Legacy Act and the Great Lakes Program Office. Unfortunately, these highlights are few and far between.

If you take a look at all of the programs

that play a role in the Great Lakes, we are looking at a cut of \$56 million. That is a 16 percent drop from FY08 levels.

Of huge concern are the drastic cuts to the Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Upgrading sewer infrastructure is such an important part of protecting the Great Lakes, particularly for Michigan, because we have many older cities with very antiquated infrastructure. Upgrading that infrastructure is critical to preventing sewage from being polluted into the Great Lakes. Yet this budget proposes a drastic cut, even though the House just passed a bill to increase the authorization limits.



The budget also comes up short in terms of properly maintaining shipping channels and harbors in the Great Lakes. We are looking at a 35 percent cut in that area over what we spent last year. With the very low

lake levels that we are facing, now is not the time to cut this important account. Economic activity is already being depressed because the ships are having to lighten their loads. If low lake levels persist, and we cannot properly maintain navigation channels, this could be a huge economic depressor for the entire Great Lakes region. And this is to say nothing of the fact that the budget continues to leave out shallow draft or recreational harbors which are very important to the often-small and rural communities they serve.

Instead of dealing with these problems, the Administration is proposing to reduce its commitment to the Great Lakes. I understand that budgets are tight and there are a lot of competing priorities. But I also understand that the Everglades saw a \$50 million increase in their budget while the Great Lakes saw a decrease of \$56 million. It almost looks like someone made the decision to cut funding for the Great Lakes and give it to the Everglades.

What is it going to take for the Administration and the Congress to wake up and acknowledge the problems we have and start making the commitments to fully fund these important programs? If it can happen for the Everglades, why can't it happen for the Great Lakes?"